



By His *Grace*
For His *Glory* To The *Nations*

FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH



By His *Grace* For His *Glory* To The *Nations* *Nehemiah*

Dear First Baptist Family,

Allow me to speak to you for a few moments, from my heart. Since March of 2012 we have been on a journey together, and it has been an exciting ride! When I look back over the time since then, this is what I see:

When I *first* became your pastor, our church needed a period of *stabilization and healing*. The church had been through a very difficult time, and we needed to come together as a family. God was so kind to do this. He gave us unity and love!

The *second* period was a time of *laying the groundwork for the future*. An essential part of this was the renovation and expansion of our buildings. God gave us the faith to take this major step. The vast enhancement of our church campus has positioned us for years of fruitful ministry!

The *third* period, which we are getting ready to embark on, will be a time of *reaching boldly into our community and the world*.

God used the first period to bring us together. It was a time of *mending*. He used the second period to get us poised and positioned through the renovation of our campus. It was a *makeover*. Now he is taking us into a third period, in which he will propel us into our community and the world. It will be a time of bold *mission*.

These next years are going to be exciting! Whether you are a longtime member or a relatively new one, you will get to be a part of something very special.

To kick off this new era in the life of First Baptist, we are going to ask God to “renew” our hearts for the mission that lies ahead. To do that, we are going to look at the book of Nehemiah. In a way, it parallels our own journey: First, God’s people needed to come together. Second, they needed to rebuild. Third, they needed to become a light for the rest of the world.

That’s why we are calling this second phase of our capital campaign, “*By His Grace, For His Glory, To The Nations.*”

Part of taking this next step for God’s glory is to commit ourselves to finish paying for the wonderful makeover of our buildings. Many of you were here three years ago when we embarked on this project. God has given you the grace to give faithfully. Can you trust Him to help you continue? Some of you have come in the past three years. Can you trust God to help you give to this project, which has impacted all of our lives and which will enable us to impact many others?

Here’s the deal: God is faithful. He can be trusted. When we give sacrificially, from our hearts, He provides for all our needs!

I am thrilled to be taking this next stage of the journey with you. The best is yet to come.

By His Grace, For His Glory, To The Nations,

Pastor Zhurav

A Study of Nehemiah

SEPTEMBER 18 CONFESSION

Nehemiah. 1:1-11

Renewal begins when God leads us into brokenness, burden, and humble confession.

SEPTEMBER 25 ACTION

Nehemiah. 2:1-20

After we humbly turn to God in confession and repentance, the result is taking godly action.

OCTOBER 2 OPPOSITION

Nehemiah. 4:1-23; 6:15-16

Whenever we turn to God and step out in faith, we can expect the enemy to oppose us. But God enables us to persevere through and overcome opposition.

OCTOBER 9 CELEBRATION

Nehemiah. 8:1-12

God compels our joyful worship, which strengthens us and edifies us through praise and the exposition of His Word.

OCTOBER 16 CONSECRATION

Nehemiah. 9-10

God propels us to place all of our lives on the altar before him. Trusting in his faithfulness, we give all that we are for all that He is.





Review & Resolve

Vision & Values

By His Grace, For His Glory – To the Nations is about when every one of us takes a sacrificial, generous step of faith.

Pray

By His Grace, For His Glory – To the Nations is a discipleship process more than a fundraising campaign. It is about shaping our hearts to be the generous, faith-filled people God desires us to be. Allow God to speak to your heart and challenge you. Ask Him what He is calling you to do in this area of your life during this season. Seek His direction and ask Him for the faith to follow that direction.

Commit

With God's leadership, make a commitment. Don't just commit to an amount, but to a change. What does that mean for your life? What sacrifices does that require? How does God have to provide in your life for that to be real? Make a commitment to take that step in faith for three years as God challenges you to meaningful giving.

Give

Giving is what takes our commitment and our faith and makes it real. Generosity is one of the fundamental keys to a Christ-centered life. It requires faith, sacrifice and vision. View each gift you have pledged as a step on the faith journey. Begin by making the first step. Maybe God is leading you to make that first step a leap by giving something abundant. Let God direct that step and give the way He leads you.

Our Vision

To glorify Christ by making disciples, who make disciples, in our community and around the world.

Our Discipleship Process

We seek to carry out our vision through helping people establish four points of connection in their lives.

- Connect persons to Christ through faith and repentance.
- Establish persons in a mature faith and in authentic community.
- Equip and mentor persons toward sharing faith and serving others.
- Multiply opportunities to engage believers in making disciples.

Our Core Values

- Biblical Faithfulness (2 Timothy 3:16)
- Expository Preaching (Luke 24:32)
- Commitment to Missions (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8)
- Prayer (John 15:5; Matthew 7:7-11)
- Humility (Ephesians 4:1-2; 1 Peter 5:5b)
- Unity (Ephesians 4:3; John 17:20-23)
- Servanthood (Matthew 23:11; 1 Peter 4:10-11)
- Kindness (Ephesians 4:32)
- Generosity (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)
- Joy (Philippians 4:4)
- Excellence (Colossians 3:23)
- Faith (Hebrews 11:6)





In the summer of 2012, Pastor Thurman Hayes shared with the First Baptist Church congregation his concerns regarding the condition of the church buildings and facilities. Having grown up in this church, Pastor Hayes had fond memories of its halls, classrooms, sanctuary, and the people who worshiped there. Now, after returning as its pastor, he observed that the facilities were showing the effects of the passage of time and the need for renovation.

A committee was appointed to determine what improvements needed to be made, what the costs would be, and how the costs would be funded. Through an intense investigation the committee identified more than fifty deficiencies that needed to be addressed. After numerous meetings with representatives from other churches, consultants, architects, engineers, and builders, the committee brought a recommendation for improvements to the church. The proposed improvements would constitute the eighth major construction project undertaken by First Baptist Church of Suffolk in its nearly two hundred year history. It became one of the church's most ambitious, as it sought to meet the spiritual needs of the community well into the 21st century.

A second part of the committee's proposal was that the church undertake a stewardship campaign to begin funding the construction. The church approved this recommendation. The fundraising campaign was entitled *By His Grace – For His Glory*, and the term eventually came to represent the entire construction project.

The *By His Grace – For His Glory* campaign netted \$816,000 in contributions and pledges from church members. This, along with \$329,000 already in hand, represented a good start toward the cost of the construction project.

First Baptist Church dedicated its newly renovated facility on September 20, 2015.

As the three-year pledges of *By His Grace – For His Glory* expire, the church still faces monthly loan payments of \$17,500.



Results

During the last three years the congregation at First Suffolk has given generously. We have seen God provide through the gifts of his people over \$700,000 to the church building fund.

Space

We have remodeled and added 20,000 square feet of our facility. The new tower and the front welcome entrance enhance the exterior beauty of the buildings. The refurbished steeple and exterior enhancements allow the presence of our facility to shine brightly in downtown Suffolk.

Fellowship & Welcome Spaces

The new fellowship and welcome space allow us to make a great first impression with those who visit with us weekly. This space allows quality fellowship for attenders and members between each service. This space also allows for groups to gather during the week for Bible studies and social gatherings.

Worship Enhancements

We gather weekly for numerous services in the church sanctuary. The greatest number of first time guests who visit our facility do so in our Sunday am service. Upgrades to the sanctuary allow us the opportunity to glorify Christ through enhancements to worship as God is glorified through music, preaching, and giving.

Preschool Security & Education Space

Our desire to disciple the next generation begins in our preschool and nursery areas. Our increased level of security allows parents to feel comfortable as they bring their families to our campus. The biblically illustrated classrooms give a place to teach the depth of God's love to each of our little ones.

Children's Education Space

Children's ministry is a driving force of our church. Disciples are made as we teach the great stories of the Bible and Scripture memorization is emphasized. The third floor of the Traylor building provides attractive classrooms to teach children the hope of the gospel.

Student Center

The worship of Christ and the teaching of God's Word is vital in our ability to reach the students of our community. Places for teaching, worship, and fellowship have been renovated and provide space for authentic teaching and missional ministry.

For more information, visit www.fbcsuffolk.org.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH SUFFOLK
237 N. Main Street, Suffolk, Virginia 23434
757-539-4152

